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(54) Title: BIO-SYNTHETIC MATRIX AND USES THEREOF

(57) Abstract: A bio-synthetic matrix comprising a hydrogel which is formed by cross-linking a synthetic polymer and a bio-polymer is provided. The matrix is robust, biocompatible and non-cytotoxic and is capable of supporting cell in-growth in vivo. The matrix can be tailored to further comprise one or more bioactive agents. The matrix may also comprise cells encapsulated and dispersed therein, which are capable of proliferating upon deposition of the matrix in vivo. Methods of preparing the bio-synthetic matrix and the use of the matrix in vivo for tissue engineering or drug delivery applications are also provided.



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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search 19 December 2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk	** document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report 02/01/2004 Authorized officer
	 "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
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